

# Trade Notes...

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## USDA Launches Global Feeding Program

USDA's FAS has been designated as the lead agency for implementing the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. The new program, which was authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, reaffirms the U.S. global commitment to education, child development and sustainable economic development. By offering a way for poor children to find a better future through education, it is an investment in helping developing nations build more productive, self-reliant societies. It is estimated that 120 million children around the world do not attend school, in part because of hunger and malnutrition. The goal of this program is to help change that by providing starving children in impoverished nations with nutritious meals as part of their education.

## Spain Approves Five New Biotech Corn Varieties for Planting

Spain has signed off on five new biotech corn varieties for planting, bringing the total number of approved varieties to seven. This allows the new varieties—products of Monsanto, Syngenta, Pioneer and Limagrain—to be included in the official seed registry in time for planting in Spain this season. These varieties had been approved prior to the EU's (European Union's) de facto moratorium on new biotech approvals in 1998 but had never been entered in the seed registry.

## Additional Food Relief Available for Africa and Iraq

In March, 200,000 metric tons of wheat were released from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust for emergency food assistance in Africa, particularly Ethiopia and Eritrea. Food crises in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa threaten some 38 million people with starvation. In addition, 200,000 metric tons of wheat from the Trust were released for emergency food assistance in Iraq, with another 400,000 tons to be made available as needed. The United States is working in close partnership with international institutions and other nations as well as private voluntary organizations to ensure the rapid delivery of humanitarian relief for Iraq. The Trust is an emergency reserve administered under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture. It is available for humanitarian relief in developing countries, allowing the United States to respond to unanticipated food crises.

## Electronic Reporting on Export Sales of Cotton and Rice Begins

In April, FAS began electronic collection of weekly export sales data for cotton and rice. Cotton exporters and firms that export rice will be able to access a secure data entry Web site with a user identification and password. The system has been operating successfully for beef exporters since September 2002, and for hides and skins since January 2003. In coming months, other commodities will be added. Every week, FAS publishes export sales data. The data is used to analyze foreign market conditions and consumer demand. The weekly U.S. Export Sales report is available on the FAS Web site at: [www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html](http://www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html). Reports are normally released on Thursday of each week.